Bleeting of the Gas Consumers. Several hundred persons interested in the Con. aumption of Gas met last night in the Chinese

Assembly Rooms. Ex-Assistant Ald. EDWIN J. MERCER of the Second Ward was called to the Chair, and Carlos p. Stuart, (Editor of the New-Yorker,) appointed

Secretary. On taking the Chair, Mr. Mercer stated the object of the meeting to be to give an expression of disapproval of the Gas Contract adopted by the late Common Council and vetoed by Mayor Wood-

Mr. ENOCH E. CAMP thought a Committee should be appointed on Resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, and sustaining the veto

of the late Mayor. The Chair announced that a series would be presented, and certain speakers address the meeting, whereupon the Secretary, (Mr. Stuart,) read the following resolutions which were frequently applauded while he was perusing them

quently applauded while he was perusing them:

\*\*Wherea.\*\* The Common Council of our City have lately attempted to bind the City and citizens of New-York in a contract with the New-York Gas Company, upon terms more severe and unjust than those of the existing contract, of which a great majority of our citizens have long and valnly complained; and whereas, his Honor, Galeb S. Woodtun, iste Mayor of our City, has defeated said attempt by his Veto, based not only upon the impolicy and inexpediency of the City's entering into such contract, but also upon the ground—clearly defined by opinion from the Bench of the Supreme Court—that the lighting of the City is a public duty, the Corporation having no power or right to legislate or contract it to the exclusion of any fature action, or inance or law, deemed necessary for the public good: Therefore, \*\*Resisted\*\*. That we approve the veto of the Eighten Years Contract, by Caleb S. Woothull, believing his action in the matter, justified by reason, facts, and public opinion.

\*Resisted\*\*. That we concur with Mr. Woodhull in his view, based on the opinion of Chief Justice Neison, that the public duties of the Corporation—unlike public property—cannot be legislated or contracted to the exclusion of future legislation, irrespective of future public necessities and emergencies.

\*Resisted\*\*, That the Gas Committee of the Common Coun-

not be legislated or contracted to the exclusion of future legislatioe, irrespective of future public necessities and emergericis.

Resolved, That the Gas Committee of the Common Council, after hoding the petition of 9,400 Gas Consumers, praying for Gas Reform, nine months in their hands, did, in presenting a Report which, on an its pages, is only a labored, specious and unfair argument favoring the Gas Company, treat said petitioners and the public with contumely, and deserve rebunks therefor.

Resolved, That the City and citizens of New-York are, by every reason and right, entitled to Gas of as good quality and at as average cheap rate as is secured to any city and citizens of this Union, at least; that the Report of the Common Council's Gas Committee admits the cheaper average highting of Philadelphia and Pintsburgh, and that no future contract shound be entered into until it is demonstrated that New-York either can or cannot have gas light as cheap and good as enjoyed by her sister cities.

Resolved, That the existing, and the vetoed contract, makes no reserve against the Gas Company's monopoly of the streets with their mains, and that the City—especially as it is inconting assumed by friends of the Gas Contract that private consumers need not use the gasif they dislike the price—is bound in justice to its citizens, however good, and whatever bargains it makes for itself, to remove all obstruction to compelition in supplying private consumers. Resolved, That in view of the new discoveries made, and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being mace in this country and in Europe, of cheaper and being

such section.

Resolved. That this meeting, in indorsing the veto of the Eighteen Years Contract, eevise and secure some fitting testimonis (individual subscription to the same to be likely to be soliar) to be presented to Caleb S. Woodhulf, see expressive of the approval of the Gas Consumers of New-York of his firm defense of their interests and rights, and that a Committee be appointed by this meeting to carry this resolution into effect.

Mr. Camp then arose to make a suggestion based upon experiments: He was authorized to state that a gas is already invented better than any other now in use, which was free from most of the objectionable qualities incident to the hydrogen gas, free from all smell, free from smoke, &c. and has been tested by Jacob Settle, Coleman & Stetson, Howard of the Irving House, Thomas S. Hamblin, and others. It could be manufactured at half the price of the contract lately vetoed. He had no hope of the Board of Aldermen, but could make the matter perfectly comprehensible to the Assistants. The gas which he had reference to was composed of a matter which had been considered refuse in all ages, and persons desirous of testing it had only to refer to his office, or at 221 Chrystie at.

at 221 Chrystie st.

Mr. R. D. Price then announced that he had the Hoor (although loud cries were made for C. Enwards Lerter) and proceeded to compliment the Mayor for his veto, and to complain of the bad righting of the street-lamps. He gave way on a point of order to

Mr. Lester, who stated that he had not made much preparation for a speech, having been in-vited to address the meeting but a few hours. He would much rather address his country cousins, who were much more indulgent than the city folks, who, if he failed in pleasing his audience would make him a laughing stock by their five and twenty Reporters. Although the audience from the countenances of those present that they could be relied upon in an emergency like this.

Mayor Woodhull had proved himself to be a true
man, and his veto was in keeping with the state of progress in the 19th century. He cared not whether Paine had been shot at or hit, or that his

whether Paine had been shot at or nit, or that his gas was made of turpentine—it was all the same to him, so long as it was a genuine discovery.

From the discoveries announced by a Foreign Correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, stock in the Old Company would go still further below par. He did not wish to impugn the motives of the late Common Council and don't any members of the late Common Council, and don't know but what he might have followed their example in the same circumstances. (Laughter.) He was requested to read the article in the Journal of Commerce, (which he highly complimented,) when he was interrupted by Mr. Price.

The Chair announced that the Meeting must

Mr. Lester proceeded with his reference to the recent discoveries made in gas manufacturing. He was not speaking for any one gas, he had enough himself. In honor of science he had a right to speak in the year 1851 when science was progressing with such great rapidity, and im-portant experiments being daily announced from the laboratories of scientific men. He felicitously referred to the approbium heaped upon Fulton by the business, men of New-York some years ago when he first commenced the navigation of ves sels by steam, as a sufficient vindication of the sels by steam, as a sufficient vindication of the men of science now experimenting. When Mr. Greeley entered the room, he complimented him as an Editor who never could be bought by any municipal corporation. After Mr. Lester had concluded, H. Greeley took the stand and explained the reason of his late attendance to be the difficulty of finding the place of meeting which he had spent some time in searching for. In the face of the fact that the citizens were so upanimously against this Contract an attempt was making to reenact it by the new Council. He had inquired into the passage of the vetoed contract of several reenact it by the new Council. He had inquired into the passage of the vetoed contract of several note the passage of the vetoed contract of several council men who could not be bought and learned that the usual amount of personal influence was employed, many of the members not thinking of the monopoly they were entailing upon the community. He referred to the noble message of Mayor Woodhull and from the inaugural of his Mayor Woodhull and from the inaugural of his successor he was not exactly sure of him, to sustain this movement. He referred to the new discoveries made by scientific men in gas manufacturing, the recent experiments, and then admitting that I Paine was a humbug, something must result from the experiments of so many distinguished men of science. In relation to a contract of this kind he wished the people to have a chance to vote on its adoption, and he had no doubt of its result. He instanced the vote taken upon the introduction of the Croton water. There must be a clause in the statutes for the submission of all contracts involving over \$100,000 to sion of all contracts involving over \$100,000 to the consideration of the people.

This contract was, in effect, a debt, and a mort

sage upon the labor of New-York. The submission of such large contracts to the people was a safe rule, and he contended improvements would not be retarded, if the people were allowed to vote upon such questions. This matter should go vote upon such questions. This matter should go to the Legislature. He demanded such action upon the subject, and unless this was done he should consider such a contract morally invalid. If this contract had been reported before the election, not an alderman would have been elected who favored it. All classes were opposed, capitalists and laboring men, and he had not seen a person who was not interested in gas stock but who was opposed to the contract, and in favor of Mayor Woodhull's veto. He trusted every person present would remonstrate with the conceil. son present would remonstrate with the cou men of their acquaintance, and thus prevent the

Passage of another contract.

James Crutchett, the owner of Water Gas pat

ent, gave an account of the progress of his invention, announcing that he would give any information desired in relation to it by calling at the Mar

Mr. Lester said that the eighth resolution would be generally responded to, and that the friends of Gas Reform would all unite in this small tribute to a faithful public servant now retired from office. No one could say that Mr. Woodhull could be

John J. Moffat (a confectioner) next followed in John J. Mosfat (a confectioner) next followed in a history of the Gas Reform movement, and seconded most cordially Mr. Lester's suggestion. That corruption had been used in the passage of the late Gas contract, he had no manner of doubt, as he had it from the best authority, (that of a person engaged as an agent in the bribing and "influencing" of such Aldermen as he could,) and if he was to lose all his property by it he was determined not to submit to the enactment of an eighteen years contract of a odinus a kind. Let a mined not to submit to the enactment of an eighteen years' contract of so odious a kind. Let a Gas consuming Company be formed, said he, and a President for it be nominated on the spot. That the contract was a most profitable one was evident from the fact that the Company wanted it extended eighteen years longer, but it was a most in whether the people would submit to any question whether the people would submit to any thing of the kind. A Committee should be ap-

Mr. Camp announced that D. B. Taylor inform ed him that the Counsel to the Corporation had given notice that the Gas Contract would not interfere with future Legislation, in order that the Contract could be reenacted by the new Comm

The meeting adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chairman, with an uncompromising hostility to monopolising gas contracts.

The Pennsylvania Legislature.

HARRISHURG, Tuesday, Jan. 7. The Legislature convened this morning, and in pursuance of the proceedings of the Opposition caucus of last evening, the lower House elected John Cessna, Speaker, over Geo. S. Hart, the Whig candidate, by a vote of 59 to 37. This result is regarded by some as an Old Hunker triumph; but is, really, the result of mere local di visions and difficulties. The election depended mainly upon the respective positions of the two Opposition candida es to the last Apportionment

The Senatorial question is at present all a mystery; but if we may be allowed to indulge in a prophecy, we will predict the election of the Hon Simon Cameron by a very decided expression o opinion. But politicians are very uncertain, and our prophecy may fall short of realization. It may, however, be well enough to stick a pin there! We shall have the usual number of divorce

cases this session, and some queer resurrections of old cases, whose success will depend morupon extraneous movements and influences, than upon their real merits. Mr. Forrest will, in all probability, try his hand once more. But Metamora's success is already ascertained—over the mora's success is already ascertained—over the left. The Gay Lothario of our own State, who was most ingloriously discomfitted last session, will be here to a certainty. It is said that he will present a case of extraordinary strength, but we can assure him that he must come particularly well recommended to obtain any favor from this

The message of Gov. Johnston (now in transitu to your office) has no very marked characteristic, but may be considered a paper of more than usual point and ability. It advocates the upholding of the Fugitive Clave Law (while it is a 'law); Dut rather deprecates the origin and tendencies of its passage. But you can make your own comments, in due time and chilize.

in due time, and oblige Yours, &c.

Pennsylvania-Message of Gov. Johnston. The Annual Message of Gov. WM. F. JOHN ston of Pennsylvania is of fair length and excellent sentiment. After an expression of gratitude to the Almighty Father for the blessings of the past year, abundant harvests, exemption from disease, improvements to the country, in the people and in public morals—the Governor alludes feelingly to the demise of Gen. Taylor, passes an eulogium on his character and recommends a suitable expression of respect for his memory on the part of the Legislature. The death of Mr. Calhoun is also alluded to.

The amendments in the Judiciary of the State

having been sanctioned by the people, the atten-tion of the Legislature is invited to such legislation as may be necessary to carry them into effect.
Some additional improvements are suggested.
The spring elections are alluded to as unnecessary and burdensome, and the Governor recommends that all the elections be hereafter held in October. The project of erecting an Agricultural Department is commended to favorable considerations. An appropriate arrangement of the geo specimens belonging to the State is also logical specimens orged. The large body of original papers in the State Department connected with the Colonial and Revolutionary History of the State are in an exposed and perishing condition, and are mended for better preservation. In the early spring the buildings of the Insane Asylum will be ready for the reception of patients. A revision o laws in relative to tavern, restaurants, beer-houses, and ten-pin alleys is recommended; and the suggestions and recommendations of former Messages in reference to the equalization of taxlaws, payment of portions of the public debt over-due, the currency and public improvements, are again pressed on the attention of the Legislature. The loan authorized at the last session to redeem

the over due public debt has not been negotiated The Governor states the amount of the Public Debt at \$40,775,485,42; of which \$912,570,64 is

nfunded:
Amount of debt on 30th Nov., 1850.
Amount of stocks and cash in hands
of commissioners of Sinking
Fund,
\$485,090,58
Deduct amount of special

loan, the interest there-of saved, in the discon-tinuance of the Plane at the Schuylkill, 400,000,00

The actual decrease of the Public Debt since 30th Nov., 1833, is \$538,203,57. The estimated receipts into the Treasury in 1850 were \$4,556,700, e the actual receipts were \$4,438,131 51. disbursements for 1850 were \$4,553,193 75. The estimated receipts for 1851 are \$4,296,000, and the expenditures \$4,101,300. The excess of disburse-ments in 1850 over the receipts, was occasioned by the heavy payments for repairing &c. of pub-

In the amounts received from Canal and Rail-In the amounts received from Canai and Rail-road tolls, and collateral inheritance taxes, the actual receipts of the last year fall short of the estimates. The school system, although still im-perfect, is rapidly improving in its general condi-tion, and promises the beneficial results it was designed to accomplish. The full repair of the Canais and Railroads of the State is urged as an important measure. The commercial connection between Philadelphia and Europe by steamship is mentioned as cause of congratulation; and the pending litigation in relation to the bridge over the Ohio river at Wheeling, is remarked upon—the Governor expressing his determination to pro-

tect the interests of the State.

A system of banking, based upon State stocks, under proper restrictions, is recommended to the attention of the Legislature. It is thought that the present banking facilities are unequal to the wants of the business community. The confidence felt in their security, and the desire to use. the relief notes, when kept in good condition justify the belief that an issue of small notes from the State Institutions, founded on a deposit of stocks, would be highly acceptable to the

On national questions, Gov. Johnston takes ground in favor of a revision and alteration of the Revenue Laws, so as to gave adequate and permanent protection to the industry of the country, the Reduction of Postage and the construction of the Reduction of Postage and the Pacific—and in Railway Communications to the Pacific—and in regard to the question of Slavery and the Fugi-tive Law, counsels obedience to the laws and retive Law, counsels obedience to the laws and re-spect to National Legislation; but excepts to that part of the Law which authorizes the crea-tion of a new and irresponsible tribunal under the name of Commissioners. He says on this

Rather than bazzard the chances of illegal decisions, and the consequent irreparable injury of an individual, results so full of danger to the an individual, results so full of danger to the peace and good order of society, the Judicial pow prease and good order of society, the Judician pow-er of the Nation might wisely be extended. If it be deemed expedient to deny a trial by Jury, and lodge the adjudication of this right of property in the breast of a single Judge, the kind of proof re-quired should be indicated, and a full record of the entire proceedings be made and preserved. Processes issued, should be returned, and the extradition of any colored person, for whose arrest a warrant had issued without hearing had before the Judge, should be visited with the pen-

sities of kidnapping. These modifications of the law, while they could not interfere with the rights of the owner of the fugitive, would grately tend to satisfy the minds of citizen anxiously desirous to perform their constitutional duties.

CITY ITEMS.

EXCITEMENT AT THE IRVING HOUSE .- Soon after the decision of Judge Judson, of the U.S. Court, to send Long, the fugitive slave, back to Virginia, was made public yesterday, a large number of colored persons collected in and about the Irving House, supposing that Long was there secreted, preparatory to being sent back. One of the blacks struck a white man who was present and a bloody scene came near being enacted. A Southerner, who had been a witness for the claimant, being present, drew a six-barrelled revolver and threatened to blow away at any black who should interfere with him. Capt. Rynders, with a party of men, was present. After much trouble on the part of Mr. Howard, the proprietor of the House, he and the man with the pistol withdrew, and the large and excited crowd who had congregated to witness the result quietly dispersed. Long, the fugitive, was in the Court Room at the time of the disturbance.

PRINTERS' UNION BALL .- The first Annual Ball of the New-York Printers' Union came off at Trip. ler Hall on Tuesday night. There was a very good attendance, but not so many as there should have been in so large a room. The arrangements were well carried out, and the company enjoyed themselves in a right merry manner until five o'clock in the morning. We might, without transcending truth, indulge in an extended description of the beauty and intelligence assembled: but as that is not in our way, we leave the poetical and rhapsodical portion to the imagination. pleased to see in attendance several of our most eminent citizens, such as editors, publishers, typefounders, &c. &c., who hold distinguished positions in relation to the craft. The ball was in all respects a good one, and highly creditable to the Union. Letters, in answer to invitations, were received from Henry Clay, D. S. Dickinson, Geo. Briggs, James Brooks, and several other members of Congress, and also from many distinguished gentlemen in our own vicinity.

Young GUARD's BALL .- The next soirce of the young Clay men will be given at Niblo's on the 24th of February. It is only necessary to say that Dodworth gives the music, Niblo the supper, and the "Young Guard" manage all other mat. ters, to give the reader promise of a ball that can not be surpassed.

THIRD DISTRICT POLICE COURT .- Our primary election quarrels have got into the Police Court at Essex Market. It seems that Geo. F. Smith-Capt. of the Sixth Ward police, whose Station House is under the First District Police Court went to Justice Mountfort of the Third District, on Saturday, the stat of December, and optained warrant for the arrest of Wm. Bryden, who had been appointed one of the Inspectors of the Whig primary election, to be held at noon on Monday the 23d. The fact that he went away from his own District, and did not arrest Mr. Bryden till the second day after the warrant was issued, and till Mr. Bryden was on his way to attend to his duty, as an Inspector of the election, made Mr. Bryden's friends think that his arrest was a mere political trick. They therefore insisted on an investigation, and Justice Mountfort appointed Tues day last, at 2 P. M., as the hour for the trial. Mr Bryden was on hand, with a large number of the most influential and respected Whigs of the Sixth Ward, to prove that the charge sworn to by Capt. Smith to procure the warrant for Mr. Bryden's arrest was unfounded. Capt. Smith, however, sent word to Justice Mountfort that he was at that time engaged in the Surrogate's office. The Justime engaged in the Surrogate s once, and subpensed the complainant (Capt. Smith) to be on hand. The defendants appeared at the appointed hour yesterday, but the complainant again sent an excuse. Justice Mountfort has therefore appointed to-morrow (Friday) at 2 o clock, and has as sured the defendants that the complainant shall then appear. It is seldom that a complainant is more backward in proceeding to trial than the parties accused. A similar case between Capt. Smith and George W. Williams is on hand, and goes through with Mr. Bryden's.

Messrs. W. T. Jennings & Co. contribute to the World's Fair a dress coat and pantaloons, from the cloth to which was awarded the first premium at the last fair of the American Institute The fabric is said to be an excellent specimen of American skill, and from the reputation of the firm we have no doubt the style and make of the garments will do credit to the science in such mat ters, for which our tailors are famed.

Mr. Henry Meyen's Complimentary Ball came off at the Shakspere Hotel on Tuesday night, and was a brilliant affair. All his pupils, ladies, gentlemen, and many children, with their parents, were present. The fancy dance perform ed by the youngsters was charming, and the "mêlée of the Tours" was so well executed as to call down hearty applause, and do much credit to the talented instructor. The new course of Mr-Meven commences to-night. His residence is 96 Chambers-street.

TRIAL TRIP.—The fine new steamship Alabama (mate and likeness of the Florida, of the New York and Savannah line,) made a short trial trip vesterday, and worked to the satisfaction of those who were there to see. She ran down nearly to the Light ship, off Sandy Hook. There was a se. lect party of gentlemen and ladies on board, who enjoyed themselves excellently. A bountiful collation was provided, and the work of deglutition was enlivened by several appropriate toasts and speeches. The Alabama will take her place in

the line immediately.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE, Jan. 8.—

### By A. J. Bleecker. \$17,000

Store and lot 39 Maiden lane. \$17,000

Store and lot on Court, near Degraw-st. 20x70. 3,425

do. do. adjoining, same size. 5,250

do. do. do. do. 3,160

JERSEY CITY. 2 lots on Eesex, near Warren-st., each 25x100, \$350 ea. 1,900

do. adjoining, same size. 1,000 2 lots on 63d-st, adjoining, \$205, 22x104
3 do. on 62d-st, in rear, 200, do.
5 do. on 62d-st, 200, do.
2 do. on 62d-st, 200, do.
2 do. on 62d-st, 200, do.
2 do. do. 195, do.
2 do. do. 220, do.
4 do. do. 210, do.
4 do. do. 200, do.
1 lot corner of 3th-ave. and 63d-st, 25x100
1 do. do, do.
1 do. do. do.
2 do. do.
2 do. do.
3 do. do.
4 do. do.
5 do. do.
6 do. do.
7 do. do.
8 do. do.
9 do. do. H. Frankfin. 

We notice in another column the advertisement of Miller & Co.'s Express, hence to Califor nia. The character of this house is satisfactorily established by the distinguished names to which M & Co. refer.

Attention is called to the advertisement Information Wanted" of Mrs. Ann H. Ystes.

CIRCUS.-M'lie. Louise, the most finished and pleasing equestrience that has ever appeared in America, announces her name for a benefit at the Amphitheater to-ni, bt, when she offers a bil of extraordinary attraction. Several en tirely new features will be introduced in the performances

TRIMBLE GUARDS .- This new Company, (got up in honor of our friend J. M. TRIMBLE, the well. known steam-builder, who puts up a five story store in a week. Tripler Hall in ninety days, and a whole city in a twelve month,) went to Harlem (Jackson's Hotel) yesterday, on their first target excursion. They made an excellent appearance and marched in fine style to the music of Adkins popular band. The T. G. are commanded by Capt. Wm. Fowler, and bid fair to take a high rank in the military scale. The following is the

1st prize, splendid silver goblet, presented by J. M. Trimble, Esq, won by James G. Cooper: 2d, silver cup, won by J. Mckim; 3d, silver cup, won by J. Park; 4th, a gold pencil, won by Capt. Fowler; 5th, silver pencil, gold pen, won by Thomas Gooly.

We are requested to state that the Maps for the great sale of Real Estate by Wm. H Franklin, Son & Co. on Wednesday, 29th inst and the following days, comprising 650 Lots on First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avs. Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth, Seventy-ninth, Ninety-fourth, Observatory Square,) Ninety-fifth, Ninety-sixth, Ninety-seventh, One Hundred and Seventeenth, One Hundred and Eighteenth, One Hundred and Nineteenth sts. and Harlem Lane, including extensive water privileges at Turtle Bay in the East River are now ready for delivery at the office of the Auctioneer, 5 Broad-st.

A SUPPORTER OF LAW AND ORDER .- Chancing to be at the ferry about the time yesterday that the alleged fugitive slave was forwarded South, we were all awake to get a sight of the excitement which Dr. Parker swore he was afraid would interfere to his damage. We found a motley assembly, comprised about half of idlers and half of police men; but all was quiet, all orderly, no noise, no hustling, no disturbance whatever-with one exception, videlicet: Isaiah (Capt.) Rynders was there, with a rifle, in search of some "d---d Abolitionist," and he-simply because he was jolly "Sawyer Rynders"-was permitted to do just as he pleased, while the pusillanimous police officers looked on and trembled. Had a friend of the alleged slave performed such a ridiculous farce, there would have been one more tenant of the Tombs in a twinkling : but such innocent diversions as hunting men through the streets with rifles is all right when the manhunter is supporting Law and Order. If the Captain is not liberally rewarded for his devo tion to the Union, then 'the Union and Safety Committee' must be deficient in gratitude and discrimination.

ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE .- A man named Martin Graff, a German, on Tuesday evening, applied at the Third Ward Station House for lodging, which was furnished him; towards morning he was discovered by Officer Hicks, hanging by the neek, and almost dead; he had fastene comforter about his neck, and attached it to the water facet. He was immediately cut down, and means were effectually resorted to for his recovery.

SUSPICION OF GRAND LARCENY .- A female named Betsey Dolton, in the employ of Meade Bros, 233 Broadway, was yesterday arrested on suspicion of stealing a gold watch and chain, va-lued at \$150, and other jewelry from her employ-ers. Shejwas committed by Justice Osborne for

A box of carpenters tools supposed to have been stolen, may be seen at the 10th Ward Po-

DEATH BY a FALL.-An Inquest was held yesterday at the dwelling house, 629 Washing-ton-st. upon the body of Mrs. Jane Lowden, a native of Scotland, 56 years of age, who came to native of Scotland, 56 years of age, who came her death by accidentally falling from a step ladder in the yard of the premises in which she resided. She struck upon her head, which was considerably fractured, in consequence of which death ensued a few hours after. Verdict accorddeath ensued a few hours after.

ARREST OF A FALSE PRETENSE LAWYER .-A. W. Goff, a pretended lawyer, keeping an of-fice in Liberty st. was yesterday arrested by officer Elder of the Lower Police Court, on com-plaint of Wm. H. Singa, master of the schooner Wm. Clark, lying at Coenties slip, E. R. who charges that on the 4th inst. Goff obtained from him 600 by false representations. Goff, it appears, wrote a letter to complainant, stating that one James Collins, whom he represented as hav-ing formerly been a hand on board the schooner, had authorized him to sue the Captain for a bill of \$40 for services. A demand of \$17, for legal services, was also

made by Goff, who threatened to libel the vessel and to make a large bill of costs if the demand and to make a large bill of costs it the contain was not paid. Mr. Singa, supposing the suit to be legally brought, called upon Mr. B. W. Fox, the consignee of the vessel, to accompany him to Goff's office. The latter, however, refused to anything to say in Mr. Fox's presence

After a private conversation the original demand together with the \$17 for fees was paid. It (as is alleged) was subsequently ascertained that no man by the name of Collins has for two years past been employed on board the vessel and as far as can be learned no such person has been employed previous to that time.

Gotl is also charged with having made several

other similar attempts to obtain money. Not hav-ing bail with him when brought before Justice Osborne, the magistrate made out a commitment to consign him to the Tombs. A limb of the law who was present in Court as counsel for Goff, ordered the officer not to imprison him. He was exposiulated with by the Magistrate, who gave him to understand that no other course would be Whereupon he called the magistrate a scoun-

drel. Justice Osborne said not a word but took the fellow by the collar and walked him out of the Court room in double quick time. The prisoner was then transferred to the City pri on to await an examination in the matter COMMISSION ON CLAIMS AGAINST MEXICO.-

Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 1851.—The two memorials of John A. Robinson, severally claiming for illegal exactions and seizure of goods, at Guayama, in 1843 and 1844, and for a forced loan exacted from him at Hermosello, while exiled there in 1840, being taken up for consideration, there in 1840, being taken up for consideration, together with the respective proofs and documents severally substantiating the same, the Board came to separate opinions on the claims, that both are valid against the Republic of Mexico, and are allowed accordingly, the amount to be awarded subject to the future action of the Board....The memorial of John Haggerty, Thomas E. Davis and Alexander H. Daner, claiming for the destruction of certain buildings and merchandize, at a place called New Washington, in Texas, by the Mexican army of invasion, in 1836, being next the Mexican army of invasion, in 1836, being next taken up for consideration, the Board came to an opinion that the claim is not valid against the Republic of Mexico, and the same was accordingly

The memorial of Robert M. Forbes ane John A. Parker, claiming for losses by the destraction of property in the invasion of Texas in 1836, being next taken up for consideration, the Board came to an opinion that the claim is not valid against the Republic of Mexico; and the same was cordingly rejected. The Board then proceeded to the consideration of the amended memorial of Robert J. Clow, filed on the 22d of August last, and came to an opinion thereon that it did not set forth any reason for reversing the decision of the Board, heretofore made, rejecting his memorial.
The memorial of Nathan Barkley, administrator of B. B. Boling, deceased; That of the same, administrator of S. Bokee, deceased; That of the same, administrator of Alexander C. Dougill, desame, administrator of Al ceased, being next taken up for consideration, the Board came to an opinion that these memorials do not set forth valid claims against the Republic of Mexico; and they were accordingly rejected.

The official advertisements of the govern ment hitherto published in the Albany Evening Journal have been withdrawn from that paper and given to the State Register, all for the sake of [Albany Knickerbocker. Daniel Mackey, charged with the murder of Beltzhoover has been tried at Pittsburgh and

found guilty of murder in the second degree counsel moved for a new trial. Two highway robberies were committed in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pa, on the evening ALLEGED SLAVE CASE.

Seventeenth and Last Ony-Opinion and Decision of Judge Judson-The Prisoner surren-dered-Affidavit of Dr. Parker to get a Police Force-Two Hundred Officers on Duty-No Excitement-Long Taken to the Ferry and Placed in the Philadelphia Cars-The Scene Closes in Order and Quietness.

Our Reporter furnishes us the following synop sis of the closing scenes in the case of Long, the alleged Fugitive from service or labor:

UNITED STATES COURT .- Before Judge Judson--In the case of Henry Long, claimed as a fugi tive from Slavery .- The Court room was densely crowded yesterday to hear the decision of Judge Judson-the gallery being occupied by colored

persons, among whom were several females.
Judge Betts took a seat on the Bench beside
Judge J. Henry Long, the alleged fugitive was
in Court, as also Dr. Parker, the claimant for Mr. Smith, with several friends from Virginia,-Mr. Tappan, and other gentlemen. The Judge pro-ceeded to deliver his opinion.

This proceeding has been brought into Court in

pursuance of the Act of Congress of Feb. 12, 1793, and an amendment of Sept 18, 1850. J. S. Smith, the claimant, is a resident of Virginia, and claims the restoration of Henry as a fugitive from his To reclaim to that service he has, under a valid power of attorney, caused the arrest of Henry by his authorized agent and attorney.

An affidavit having been filed in Court, a

rant issued, and the arrest made, Henry is now in custody of the Marshal of this district, awaiting the determination of this matter. No questions have been raised in regard to the form or validity

of the papers or the case.

The claimant has produced his evidence in support of that claim, and the alleged fugitive, by his counsel, has produced such evidence as the counsel. sel deemed proper, all of which has been heard and considered.

Counsel, learned in the law, have discussed with great ability the questions involved in the

And now it devolves on the Court to decide these questions according to law and However important a cause may be to the public or an individual, no other rule can ever be adopt ed in the administration of justice.

If evidence is to be weighed, that must be done in even scales. If the law is to be interpreted, there must be no departure from the long-established rules belonging to the code of the civilized

Before stating the questions now to be determined, it may be propor to remark that, in the argument of the case, the learned counsel of the defense, who last addressed the Court, did, with great frankness and candor, admit that the law of Congress of Sept. 18, 1850, by virtue of which this case is now proceeding in the Circuit Court of the United States, is in no manner inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution

Or in other words, so far as this Court and this cause are concerned, this law is constitutional,

valid and binding.

To this admission it may well be added that every Judge and Court in the United States, have overy stage and constitute oath to support the Constitution, can by no possibility fail in the performance of that duty whenever a case falling within the law, supported by comp tent proof, is brought before them To do otherwise would be a violation of known dary and a prostration of all laws, never to be required of any Jadge by a single individual of that community in which he may

be called to act.

These considerations and this admission, supersede all necessity of discussing, either the consti-tutionality of the law or its power over this

What remains then to be done in the present case? It is simply to inquire:
1st. Does Henry Long by the laws of Virginia
owe service and labor to John T. Smith, the claim-

ant? and 2d. Is Henry Long a fugitive from that ser-

vice within the meaning and intent of the second section of the IVth article of the Constitution of the United States, and within the meaning of the act of Congress above mentioned.

These questions of fact comprehend all that the

These questions of year comprehend an time the Court has to determine.

The case is therefore brought down to a very narrow point, the common sense construction and weight of evidence, may be alluded to as furnish-

ing a guide for the mind.

The means of knowledge, the integrity and standing of witnesses, the probability of the story re-lated, the liability to mistake as to time, facts or circumstances, connected with the case, these are all to be taken into the account in giving effect to the terminating of the case. To return to the first question, does the person arrested, according to the laws of Virginia, owe service and labor to the claimant?

By the laws of Virginia Slavery is tolerated. The Constitution of the United States yields its

sanction to that law, and since the organization of the Government, the Supreme Court of the United States in its numerous decisions, have upheld the right; therefore, no subordinate tribunals can now call it in question. In point of fact, then, how stands the case and the proof in regard to the person claimed?

Dr. Wade, a citizen of Virginia, an intelligent witness, speaks of his own knowledge to this Court, bearing testimony that Henry was born in own immediate neighborhood, in the town of Christianburgh, Va.: that his mother was a slave, owned by Mr. Anderson; that they were brought up together as boys and men; that he has always known him, and seen him in service as a slave that this claimant married the daughter of Mo Anderson; that after the death of Mr. Anderson the mother and son passed into the hands of thi claimant; and this witness adds that he has now met Henry in New York, and in conversation with him, and in seeing him here in Court, he knows him to be the same person, and positively swears to his identity as he would to his own

Dr. Wm. Parker, another citizen of testifies that heretofore he has been in the habit of visiting John T. Smith, his brother in law, in Russell County, Virginia, and saw there in service as a slave, the person here arrested—that at the instance and request of Smith, and as his agent, this witness had the letting of Henry in Richmond, Va to the house of Haskins & Libby, as the slave of this claimant, and collected the wages, transmitting the same to his brother in law Smith; that while so in service in Richmond, Henry was sick more than once; that he was his physician, attending him while sick, and set up with him through the night; that at the request of Henry, he wrote to Henry's wife and master in Russell County.

Two witnesses, masters of vessels sailing between the country of the

tween the ports of New York and Richmond, have also testified that they have frequently seen this man at work in the store of Haskins & Libby during the time stated by Dr. Parker; that since that time, they have seen him in this city, and seeing him here in Court, identify him as the same individual.

The second question is-Has Henry Long es caped from the service of John T. Smith?

Dr. Parker testified that in Dec. 1848, Henry left Richmond; that he advertised him; that wit diligent inquiry he could not be found there; and that since that time he has been found in New-

On the part of the claimant it is insisted that this evidence should be deemed satisfactory proof competent in law.

On the other hand, the coursel for defense have

introduced four witnesses, who testify that they saw Henry in the city of New-York in November and December, 1847, January 24, 1848, and from that time down to the present.

It is claimed on the part of the defense that the alleged function was not in Highward.

alleged fugitive was not in Richmond at the time sworn to by Dr. Parker and the two ship masters. aworn to by Dr. Parker and the two ship masters.

There is no necessary contradiction between the witnesses thus introduced. They only differ as to time. There is no doubt that these four witnesses have seen Henry Long in New-York, but as to the precise time they may be mistaken, and have substituted the year 1848 for 1849. For instance, the paper which bears date January 24, 1848, was and only the different paper which bears date January 24, 1848, was and only written in 1849. For the witness date undoubtedly written in 1849, for the witness clares that her father in law sailed for Califor in a particular ship which sailed in January, 1848, as she swears, when in point of fact the ship sailed

Then as to the testimony of John Butler. testifies that he saw Henry frequently—that Henry was a constant driver of a carriage from a particular street named by him, and that he often a particular street named by him, and that he often met him at a blacksmith's shop in Center-st. One of these witnesses testifies that Henry was a waiter at a hotel in New York. Another one that he saw Henry with his waiter's garb and dress on board the Vanderbilt, all in the year 1848. If these things actually occurred in 1848, it would be an easy matter for Henry to inform his counsel where lived the owner of this coach he

drove so long; whose was the hotel in which he waited, and who was the Captain of the Vanderbilt in 1848 for whom he served; they would all have been here.

This omission goes far to show that there may have been a mistake as to the precise time when Henry was first seen in New-York, and an honest mistake too.

There is another remarkable omission which

There is another remarkable omission which characterizes the defense.

Are there two Henry Longs? I have heard of no such pretense, and if there be but one Henry Long, the question naturally presents itself here, Is this man now present the Henry Long of Virginia, or is he Henry Long of New-York. And if this latter, why are not his parents, his brothers, his asisters his neighbors, his boyhood acquaintif this latter, why are not his parents, his brothers, his sisters, his neighbors, his boyhood acquaint-ances here to identify him, instead of John Butler? They would all rush to the Court room and tell us that this man is the Henry Long of New-York, and a free man. This aspect of the case is one of singular importance.

These considerations lead the Court to the inevitable conclusion that there is no real contradiction arising out of the evidence of the case, and that the two great questions of fact involved in the controversy, are maintained upon satis-

and that the two great questions of fact involved in the controversy, are maintained upon satisfactory proofs competent in law.

The consequence is that a certificate in conformity of the act of Congress be now issued by the Clerk of this Court, for the surrender of Henry Long as a fugitive from service and labor.

During the reading of his written opinion, the Judge offered various remarks. He said at the adoption of the Constitution of the U. S. all the then 13 States held Slaves—it was not a com-

then 13 States held Slaves-it was not a compromise between Free and Slave States, but a mutual contract by the whole. New-York, with the system, which event occurred in this State, or the limited time for its extinction, so late as 1827, at which time there were great rejoicings on the subject. Had a Slave, during that time escaped into Virginia, he would have been delivered up to the claimant in New-York. Virginia has seen fit the claimant in New-York. Virginia has seen fit to continue the system, and is still entitled to the privileges of the Constitution. Shall New-York now say she will not carry out that compact, and refuse to give up fugitives from labor! If she does so decide, it is she that breaks the Constitution, and dissolves the compact, and not Virginia. The latter has a right to come in and claim fugitives from labor, and it will be the duty of other strength of the st

States to give them up, unless the Constitution should, to the contrary, be amended.

I came into existence, the Judge said, prior to the adoption of the Constitution—witnessed the assault upon it in 1801—also in Philadelphia—also under the embargo laws of Massachusetts—contrary in 1812—the saw the assaults on the Constitution in 1812—the attack on it in 1805 by the traitor Burr—also that of 1832, under what was called Southern Nullification, and am happy to say, as all must, that amid all these attacks the Constitution has carried us gloriously through. By the aid of the immortal Jackson the Country was saved in 1832—by the aid of the people I trust the Country will be saved from a breach of the Constitution in the

Present emergency.

After the rendering of the opinion and the decision that Long be given up to the claimant, (Dr. P.) to be carried back to Virginia, and the certifito be carried back to virginia, and the certificate delivered, Mr. Western, on behalf of Dr. P. and sworn to by latter, made an affidavit setting forth that great excitement exists, and he has reason to apprehend that Long will be reacued by force from his possession before he can be taken havend the limits of the Principle. be taken beyond the limits of the State [the mode pointed out by the act and claiming the assistance of the U.S. Marshal.

Mr. Jay stated to the Court that he did not see the necessity of the aflidavit, or that there was

any cause to apprehend violence.

The Judge said he concurred in the views of

Mr. Jay, as there has not been the alightest manifestation of any thing of the kind throughout

manifestation of any thing of the kind throughout the whole of the proceedings.

After the case had been disposed of, Judge Judson remarked that his official duties in this district would now cease. He turned to Judge Bettz, congratulated him on his restoration to health, and handed him the papers. Judge Bettz then resumed the beach, paid a handsome tribute to Judge J. whom he stated had been here three months and dispatched a great deal of business.

After the retirement of Judge Judson, Mr. J. Prescott Hail, the U.S. Dist. Attorney, rose, and addressed the Court expressing the high sense of addressed the Court expressing the high sense of respect entertained by the bar for the manner in which Judge J. has performed his official duties, and also congratulating Judge B. on his restoration to be the health of the sense of the sense of the manner in the sense of the s

ration to health.

Resignation and Appointment of Clerk —Judge
Betts then announced that J. W. Metcalf, Clerk
of the District Court, having resigned the duties
of his office, George W. Morton, Esq who has
so long and ably performed the duties of Deputy
Clerk be appointed in his stead, and Mr. M.
was accordingly sworn in. Mr. Joseph Bridgham
long and favorably known as Asst. Clerk, was
afterwards appointed by Mr. Morton Deputy Clerk
of the Court.

Departure of Long.—At 5 o clock yesterday afration to health

of the Court.

Departure of Long.—At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, (he having been kept in the Marshal's office till then.) Long was conveyed by the Marshal and his officers to the New-Jersey Railroad and placed on board, to be conveyed to Virginia. An offer was made by gentlemen here to buy his freedom of Dr. P. but the latter stated that he was

not authorized to sell him.
Suit against Mr. Hall, U. S. Commissioner.— It is said preparatory measures were taken to bring an action for false imprisonment, &c. (with a view, probably, to test the constitutionality of the part of the law as to Commissionser,) on behalf of Long, but the latter, previous to leaving, gave a release to Mr. H. so that a suit cannot be brought.

Massachusetts-Nominations for U. S. Sena

A dispatch dated Boston, Jan. 8, says

Hon. ROBT. RANTOUL'S nomination by the Old Line 'Democrata' for U. S. Senator, for the short term, has been confirmed by the Free Soil mem-bers of the Legislature, by but one dissenting The Free Soilers have also unanimously nomi-

nated Chas. Summer for the long term, and the nomination comes to-day before the 'Democratic' caucus for their ratification.

Supreme Court of the United States.—
Washington, Tuesday, January 7, 1851.—Hamilton Alricks, Esq. of Pennsylvania, was admitted an Attorney and Counsellor of this Court. No. 29. S. B. Preston, et al. vs. C. Bracken. No. 30. J. McNulty vs. J. Batty et al. In Error to the Supreme Court of the Territory of Wisconsin. Mr. Justice Nelson delivered the opinion of this Court, abating the writ of Error in each of these cases. No. 17. J. Landis vs. J. B. Brant. In Error to the Circuit Court of the United States for Missouri. Mr. Justice Catron delivered the opinion of this Court, effirming the judgment of the said Circuit Court in this cause. No. 9. T. Henderson et al. vs. Lessee of the State of Tennessee. In Error to the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Mr. Chief Justice Taney delivered the opinion of the Court, dismissing this case for want of jurisdiction. N. 46. S. W. Oakey, plaintiff in error, vs. John H. Bennett et al. This cause was argued by Messrs. Rogers and Howard for the defendants in error. No. 47. E. Blane, plaintiff in error, vs. SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES .by Messrs. Rogers and Howard of the deriver, vs. in error. No. 47. E. Blanc, plaintiff in error, vs. G. W. Lafayette et al. This cause was argued by Mr. Bullard for the plaintiff in error. No. 50. Canal Commissioners of Pennsylvania, plaintiffs in error, vs. The State of Pennsylvania. The arror, vs. The State of Pennsylvania. The arror, vs. The State of Pennsylvania. gument of this cause was commenced by Mr. J. M. Porter for the plaintiffs in error. Adjourned till to-morrow, 11 o'clock, A. M.

DISASTROUS FIRE .- Bushville, Ill. suffered from Disastrous Fire.—Bushville, Ill. suffered from a severe fire on the night of the 18th. It commenced in a brick building on the south-west corner of the public square, the whole of which was consumed. It was occupied by M. J. & J. Taylor as a drug store, by Mr. Rose as a grocery store, and a large upper room by the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Batterton owned that part of the building occupied by Mesars. Taylor—loss \$1,500—no insurance. The Messrs. Taylor's loss was \$7,000—insured \$3,605. Mr. Rose's loss, \$3,000—insured for \$202. Loss of Masonic Lodge, \$600—no insurance.

FIRE.-On the 29th ult. the largest building at Bedford Center, Mich. belonging to Chester Eliot, and containing a carding machine, clothing works, and other valuable machinery was de-stroyed by fire. Loss about \$4,700. No insur-

Fire and Death.—The dwelling house of Samuel Whipple, in Holt County, Mo. was destroyed by fire on the night of the 9th ult. and sad to tell, four children were in the house, three of whom were burned to death. The fourth may

The report of the robbery and murder of Jesse Funk, an extensive dealer in cattle, in Mc-Lean County, Ill. is contradicted. The whole story was a hoax.